Baltimore Afro-American

OPINION

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Winter help

People who can prove they are "truly needy" will not have their gas and electricity cut off during the winter even if they cannot pay their bills and others facing heating cut-offs will be notified in advance, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company promised this on Thursday.

BG and E spokesman Charles Franklin announced the plan already revealed by the state at a news conference with Mayor William Schaefer. The city will help coordinate the identification of poor people facing heating cut-offs.

The State Department of Human Resources will "identify truly needy customers with incomes below established poverty levels," Franklin said.

"BG and E will ask the customer for this income information, which later will be verified by the Department of Human Resources. Service in such cases will stay on for the entire heating season."

Those customers with overdue bills will get written notice explaining the adverse effects of a utility cut-off and will be personally contacted three workdays before their service is stopped.

We find this approach much more reasonable than the fact BG and E took earlier which would have meant utility turn-offs no matter what a family's economic situation this winter.

Administration of emergency fuel and utility bill money for low-income families and individuals in Baltimore will be the responsibility of the Urban Services Administration.

We are confident that USA is going to handle this program with extreme humanity and efficiency.

We also think Gov. Harry Hughes and his staff deserves a note of praise for shepherding through a sane state-wide fuel emergency plan before the onslaught of winter.

Morgan State turmoil

Dr. Andrew Billingsley, president of Morgan State University, is no stranger to controversy.

Almost from the day of his installation he had been a target of one or another faction on campus or in town.

Some of this friction is because some Baltimoreans feel as if Morgan is their institution to the exclusion of all others and Billingsley is deemed an "outsider."

Some of this is the president's doing. He has demonstrated a penchant for hirings, firings and other personnel actions toward faculty and administrators that goes largely unexplained.

But whatever the root causes there is an undercurrent of dissatisfaction and dissent at Morgan that deeply troubles us.

The Morgan State Foundation, according to Mrs. Enolia McMillan, president of the Baltimore branch of the NAACP, leaves much to be desired. Mrs. McMillan has raised questions about the Foundation's use of monies it has taken in and the Foundation, in turn, deeming itself a private appendage of the University, has been less than forthcoming in responding to Mrs. McMillan and to Delegate Lena K. Lee who has also raised questions.

Dr. Billingsley is also under attack anonymously, by a person or persons unknown within the Morgan family. A series of unsigned "white papers" has been circulating on campus attacking the administration.

We hardly hold with secret attacks but perhaps the writers knowing how fast jobs can get lost at MSU these days feel they have no other recourse.

There may be something positive to come out of all this. Dr. Billingsley this week told the AFRO that he is willing to publicly speak to all charges and innuendoes about the state of his administration.

We feel that bringing the issues into the open is the only way to clear the air and to provide taxpayers (Morgan is after all the property of the citizens of Maryland) with the kind of information they need to make intelligent assessment of the situation.

If all involved will be candid some progress might be made. Otherwise MSU will continue to be wrecked by internal strife that is in nobody's best interest.

One cheery note

The main fare of traditional Thanksgiving dinners may cost less this year because of greater supplies of turkeys, poultry experts say.

Turkey prices are averaging 9 to 10 cents a pound less than last year.

These lower prices could be explained by a general poultry "overabundance."

Tom Turkeys are selling for 59 cents a pound and brand labels range from 69 to 79 cents a pound. Hens are selling for 69 cents a pound, and geese, which sold for $1.69 a pound last year, are about 20 cents a pound cheaper.

With inflation rampant and the Middle East crisis bound to make fuel oil even costlier, it is a relief to know that turkeys won't strain our wallets this coming holiday week.

Strange mix in melting pot

As blacks and other minorities witness challenge after challenge to the hard won civil rights gains made during the 60s, we must now cope with the resurgence of Ku Klux Klan activity throughout the country.

Just this summer, black postal workers in Pensacola, Fla. were threatened by members of the Klan. Why were these black postal workers threatened? Because they had successfully gained much deserved and long overdue promotions within the postal service.

Now the Klan has taken to outright violent behavior against those who differ with their ideological or ethnic background. Five people attending the anti-Klan rally in Greensboro, N.C. were shot and killed by members of the Klan on Nov. 4.

It seems quite odd that at a time in history when larger social problems have taken the place of preoccupation with the Klan and when many of our youngsters have never heard of the Klan and would probably say the Klan is a punk rock group, we are forced to face the grim reality that this country's progress in race relations has not been what it seemed.

Today, minorities are occupying positions of apparent power within the private sector and public sector. Yet, the Klan still thrives. Depressing isn't it?

We have fought too hard to tear down the vestiges of racism. We have fought too hard for jobs. We have fought too hard to put an end to discrimination. And, at this stage in our history, as hard as we have fought we cannot afford to submit to terrorism by the Klan or any other group.

This nation had better quickly pull together. For, it is becoming apparent that racial violence whether in Boston or Greensboro is as American as apple pie.

Hopefully, I am wrong but it now seems doubtful that there will ever be true peace between the ethnic groups in America. For somehow it seems that the melting pot has not melted after all. Instead, the pot appears to be full of ingredients that may well never come together to create a palatable mix.

ROBERT L. WHITE

LETTERS

Rent control struggle continues

Dear AFRO:

On Nov. 6, 1979, 72,000 citizens of Baltimore made their wishes heard. These 72,000 Baltimoreans voted yes to Rent Control, voted yes to decent and affordable housing in Baltimore.

The opponents to these 72,000 citiziens of Baltimore, who are they? Some are from California, Tennessee, Hawaii and many live in various counties of Maryland. The opponents from California, Tennessee and Hawaii did it for the money — why did the landlord interests from the counties get involved?

They don't live here in Baltimore — money!! money!! and more money is the obvious answer, but what else would motivate people who don't live in an area to attempt to affect the politics of this area at a cost of more than a half million dollars? How about these as motivating factors: racism and classism.

Why racism? In Baltimore 60 to 70 percent of rentors are black. Just a mere coincidence? No way!! Just think how many of the opponents to rent control are black, how many of the opponents to rent control who contributed money were black and who are the landlords?

On the question of classism the Rent Control struggle is a classic example of the have-nots fighting for their virtual survival against the haves. The Nov. 6 election was a people's victory and not as the racist and self serving media would have us believe a "quote" mistaken judgement by the heavily monied landlord and banking interests.

In no other election in the U.S. where one side had heavy financing and the other side had virtually no money has the side with hardly any money won. In short terms the people beat the big money.

Big money historically has bought elections and thus insured that a selective few would maintain control over a majority. But not this time; this time it was turned around and not because of the mistakes allegedly made by the landlords interests, but because the will of the people prevailed.

But even among the supporters of Rent Control there were barriers of racism to overcome. Some factions chose not to work in the poor and black communities for fear that poor people and black people would not come out to vote. The People's Camaign for Rent Control took the position that live or die, win or lose we would work with our people — poor whites, poor blacks and the working class. We did and we won. I submit to you who supported Rent Control to walk tall and proud and beware of those black or white who try to convince yu that you did not beat the tails off of vicious dogs of California, Maryland and elsewhere — Because you have made history, be proud Baltimore, be proud that you fought back, be proud that you marched into the lion's den and defanged and declawed the vile elements that dwelled within — Little David you slew Goliath and the groans you hear are the changing times and those who existed to control us are now trying toregroup to find out why their big money didn't work this time.

Now the battle is in the courts and they are still trying to steal our hopes and dreams — The big money hasn't given up so don't you. Once wounded this insidious beast is doubly dangerous so we must also regroup and be ever aware that the struggle goes on and on.

BOB CHEEKS
Chairperson, peoples
People's Campaign
for Rent Control

Prisongate cover-up

Dear AFRO:

With the economy caught in the thrall of double digit inflation and dangling from the precipice of a recession, it is incumbent that Maryland taxpayers first determine that their tax dollars are not being squandered and that a genuine need exists for additional guards at the Md. House of Correction and other penal facilities before unquestionably accepting unconfirmed statements merely because they were asserted by prison officials.

The validity of these assertions can be determined only through an objective, independent examination of pertinent facts. Now, undisputable documented data is available and exposes the penal administrators' public statements as blatant lies astutely planned to conceal one unmistakable fact: the mass escape — a direct response to a natural instinct — resulted from guards' incompetence, not a shortage of guards.

Through iniquitous insinuations, misrepresentation of relevant facts, and mass psychology of propaganda penal administrators have succeeded in glossing over their inefficiencies and negligence, and have shifted the responsibility from themselves to the Maryland citizens and the General Assembly. Hence, the mythical guards shortage, the dispute surrounding the cessation of over-time pay, and a broken locking mechanism on a grill/door which still has not been repaired.

The die had been cast, and all at the expense of the taxpayers. Some legislators have even hinted at reopening the controversial debate on whether or not to build more prisons. The political implications are clear: increase the prison's guard force to the equivalent of maximum security. Which of course is economically sound, since it costs more to build new prisons. But it is also illegal.

The Maryland House of Correction, established by Chapter 233, Act of 1874, is a medium security institution, which is greater security than minimum but less than the "greatest quantity or amount possible" (maximum security). Thus, the guards arrangement must be in compliance with the security status legislated by the General Assembly.

There are two other prisons in Maryland that are medium security institutions: Maryland Correctional Institution and Maryland Correctional Training Center. Both are located at Hagerstown.

Status notwithstanding, security is increased or diminished in accordance to the philosophy of the person who is delegated that authority and whose methods are undoubtedly an adaptation of something he heard at a penal seminary. The result is a continuous fluctuation in the quota of guards needed at each institution. This could very well be in violation of the law. Increased security equaled to maximum changes, the medium security status of these institutions which had been legislated into law.

Conversely, why are more guards necessary at the Hagerstown facilities than at Jessup, or vice versa? Is it because new posts are being created constantly? Or because promotions are made so that a guard can receive a pay raise, when wages are frozen? Yet, security can be improved (without hiring additional guards) at a minimal cost to the taxpayers. Penal administrators are aware of this salient fact. To provide a wider sphere of observation, surveillance cameras (manned from a central control station) were installed throughout all penal institutions. Inspectoscope (metal detectors) were installed too, at the front and rear entrance of each facility.

Two of these surveillance cameras were installed in the dormitory at the Jessup institution from which 30 men escaped. Inmates can be observed by guards other than the one assigned to a particular post because of this additional surveillance, which explains why only one guard is assigned to the dormitories. Facts conveniently missing from penal spokesmen's public statements; facts which are conclusive and clearly shown by even a cursory analysis of them.

The prisongate cover-up (breach of security by derelict guards) will cost taxpayers at least four million dollars. Under the circumstances, it will be disadvantageous to remain lethargic. The resounding echo of a guard shortage is a subterfuge which urges the exact course of our action.

We must remonstrate, and channel our demands for an investigation in a forum that guarantees tax application in equity.

M.G. BRYANT
Coalition Against
Tax Abuses

Klan attack

Dear AFRO:

Rational and humane citizens must feel a profound sense of revulsion and disgust in the wake of the dastardly and reprehnsible Klan attack on demonstrators in Greensboro, N.C. The Klan attack resulted in the tragic and senseless death of four persons and the wounding of ten others. The Greensboro attack of the Klan indicates palpably that it remains wedded to its historic stock in trade: violence and intimidation.

The Klan since its inception in 1867 under Nathan Beford Forrest in Pulaski, Tenn., has followed the course of violence, intimidation and traducement. The violence in Greensboro, without the usual robes and masks, is a biatant and harsh continuation of the Klan's wretched and irrational behavior.

The law-enforcement machinery of Greensboro and North Carolina, as well as the Federal Government, must be mobilized not only to apprehend the Klan perpetrators, but to assure that justice is speedily meted out to those who have shown a callous contempt for human life and the rule of law. Failure to act decisively will denigrate the rule of law in Greensboro and encourage the spirit of mobocracy.

SAMUEL L. BANKS
Assistant Superintendent
Baltimore City
Department of Education

YEAR OF THE CHILD

Young men with guns

By Marion M. Banfield

Full force to the moon! Yet, we must shudder as with our military might, our economic wealth, our political power, we see Cambodian children's sunken eyes testify about starvation.

Some of my friends wonder why I am so fearful of the military. Just remember the pictures you see of starving Cambodians (not just hungry humans) and the young men with guns to keep the starving as passive survivors.

I conside rwar tobe a horrible distortion of human reason, of human life, of natural life. So I cannot possibly want war. I simply call to you attention that no one speaks of war to resuce those who are starved through the politics of power.

We do not care enough about our own children to insure that our government, at any level, budget for their fullest welfare. We evade, or placidly remain ignorant or silent about the uncountable money which our Congress insists be allotted to manufacturers of death instruments.

Can we do anything to warn our children of the corruptness of unthinking obedience. It is through unreasoning obedience, irrational loyalty to power that suffering is so universally apparent.

Rather than stressing loyalty — be it to country or religion or political leader — we may need to change our old ways. Perhaps we can teach our children to be alert to the use and perils of power. Perhaps we can dare to teach our children to seek more questions, to become analyzers of answers.

Power to suppress is enforced through guns of the young. Armies are built through manipulation of young minds and destruction of young bodies, usually male.

What are we teaching our young at home, in church and in our sheools?

MADELINE MURPHY

Carter, the reluctant salesman

By Madeline W. Murphy

In a Los Angeles Times article, recently, the civil rights record of President Jimmy Carter was judged to be spotty.

However, Clarence Mitchell Jr., former director of the Washington office of the NAACP, the learned "100th Senator" and lobbyist for 28 years, was quoted as saying that Carter "has a good civil rights record."

And when one looks at the areas Mr. Mitchell enumerated in justifying Carter's record, the inroads made by him in civil rights, though not spectacular, are worthy of Mr. Mitchell's grade.

Most notably he cites among others:

The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission head Eleanor Norton Holmes, an articulate black woman who has brought issues, decisions and actions to public attention.

The enforcement of the 1969 fair housing law can be affected through a cease and desist authority President Carter is seeking for the Secretary of housing law can be effected the appointment of blacks to key administration jobs and federal judgeships.

In the same article, Arthur I. Flemming, chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission also points to the recently thrown out lawsuit filed against Philadelphia's Mayor Frank Fizzo and that city's police department in regard to police brutality against blacks and Hispanics; the recently established civil rights mandates in the allocations of federal funds.

Moreover, they both blame the press for not highlighting these achievements.

Moreover, they both blame the press for not highlighting these achievements.

But underlying all the plaudits, is the puzzling quiet and indecision at the White House in not drawing together this record and capitalizing upon it.

Further along in the article illuminating the cause, however, Laura W. Murphy, legislative assistant for minorities and women of the American Civil Liberties Union, explains, "They don't see civil rights as an issue they can get much mileage out of."

She adds, "I don't think the Administration is as vocal as it should be in support of legislation that would put teeth into the Fair Housing law."

Enlarging upon this theme, Ms. Murphy states that the President did not work hard enough to defeat the anti-busing constitutional amendment that was sponsored last spring by Congressman Ronald M. Motti (D-Ohio).

The President's problems with an increasingly conservative Congress, Ms. Murphy pointed out, "can hamstring the White House". She concludes, "They can do it on SALT and energy, so there's no doubt they can do it on civil rights."

And so, hovering over these analyses is still the spectre of crisis in leadership.

President Carter, despite his good intentions and pious mien, has not seized the moment, nor seemed to develop a firm hand.

This impotence with Congress indicates and unwillingness to commit himself totally to whatever principles he has, come hell or high water! This alone has strengthened voter impatience.

Also an obvious opportunism keeps surfacing that panders to Congress in an election year, when the conservative Proposition 13 types will have a field day, saving their own necks from vociferous constituents, by lobbying and bullying on single issues like abortion or ERA, or SALT II or decontrol.

Carter in the face of this is like the boy scout, merely holding up two damp fingers to test how the Congressional wind will blow before making decisions.

Thus his weakness in leadership becomes more evident as he loses ground with Congress. They, like spoiled brats, keep making unreasonable demands, becoming more stubborn as he becomes more intimidated. One might add that Congress is merely passing down its own indecision and intimidations/inherited from its pandering also to special interests.

This tenuous attitude reminds one of the reluctant salesman, Elmer Blurt, in an old radio program, who upon knocking on a prospect's door would mumble timidly "Hope nobody's to home here, I hope, I hope, I hope!"

With the issues of the '80s looking us squarely in the face; with the financial state of the nation so precariously balanced upon the precipice of depression, recession, double digit to maybe triple digit inflation; with the energy multi-nationals squeezing us dry for their pound of flesh, it is becoming more evident that we need a man in the White House who will make firm decisions and even dare to be wrong in the face of this increasing conservatism.

He should know by now that he can't please everyone. As in the fable of the man, the boy and the donkey, the man belatedly realized after he had drowned the donkey in trying to please everyone, he had lost his only means of transportation.

In Carter's case his only salvation is the people, but why is he, too, drowning us?

G. JAMES FLEMING

Looking back at Baltimore

By G. James Fleming

The September primary in Baltimore City reminded all of us that white voters will vote white whenever and wherever they have a choice; not 100 percent so, but historically valid a conclusion, nonetheless.

Last week's election reminds us that Baltimoreans will vote the Democratic ticket, regardless of the personal appeal of a Republican candidate. This is true of black as well as white Baltimore voters, although every once in a while there is exception to the rule.

Not a single Republican was elected in last week's mayoral and councilmanic election. No black defeated a white candidate.

There is another lesson, long known, that incumbents have it all over a challenger when it comes to winning elections. Even Norman Reeves, black victor in the Fifth Councilmanic District, might not have been elected if, in the primary, he was pitted against an incumbent, and a white one at that.

The real victory in the recent election is that Baltimore City, over 50 per cent black, now has black voices in the City Council from three of the city's six districts, whereas the populous Fifth had never elected a black councilman or councilwoman before.

It may well be that, by the elections of 1983, some other district, or districts, will follow the pattern of the Second, the Third and now the Fifth.

It should not be overlooked that, while the Fifth District gave Reeves a commanding lead over other candidates, there was no demonstrated attempt, on the part of black voters, to unseat Mrs. Rochelle Spector and Thomas Waxter, both white.

Certainly, black Democrats were not disposed to replace white Democrats with black Republicans. At least, not this time.

All the situations mentioned above are exemplified in the race for City Comptroller. The winner, returned for a fourth term, is white, is an incumbent, and is a Democrat. He, Hyman Pressman, had it all "going for him."

His challenger, the Rev. St. George I.B. Crosse, is black, a Republican, and has never held public office.

In addition, Pressman, both before and since being in office, has built up a wide following, especially among ethnic groups, including blacks.

So far as the principle of the two-part system is concerned, it seems that the Grand Old Party is a has-been, so far as having local clout is a question. Those who want diversity in decision-making, as in the City Council, will have to promote and encourage the intra-party factions which can give voice and color to the different ideologies, from liberal, to conservative, to reactionary — and perhaps other ideologies, also.

While Baltimore City did not elect a black to any of the three highest offices in city government this year, Birmingham, Ala., did elect Richard Arrington, black city councilman, as its mayor — over a white businessman-lawyer. If this can happen in the land of "Bull" Connor and his bulldogs, there is hope for Baltimore. As the old Dodgers used to say, after each defeat by the Yankees, "Wait 'til Next time."

Rather than become depressed or funeral, black Baltimoreans should remember that black mayors hold office, some by reelection, in Atlanta, Detroit, Gary, Newark, and Los Angeles (the latter city with only an 18 per cent black population). There are also black mayors in a number of smaller cities.

Baltimore's day will come! Or, it can be made to come!

Parren MITCHELL

Looking for courage

by Parren J. Mitchell

Often as I leave my home, I see the same young man walking to work. He walks with a heavily pronounced limp and obviously it requires some extra effort to walk. Often as I drive downtown, I see the same young man walking to work.

On Friday Nov. 2, 1979, I saw the same young man as I was getting into my car which was parked outside my home. This time I spoke with him.

His name is Larry Thorne. His age is 23 years. He lives in the 1900 block of McCulloh Street and he walks to and from his work site which is at Charles and Preston Street. Larry Thorne is the victim of cerebral palsy. I am certain he does not think of himself as an example of courage, but I do.

Larry Thorne does not realize it but he is a living example to show to the ever increasing ranks of those in this country who maintain that blacks at certain socio-economic levels do not want to work — those who hold that blacks simply want to live in a parasitic existence in America.

As is true of most people who serve the public, there are many times when we look to others for courage as we confront open, naked hostility. How well do I remember the vicious attacks launched against Martin Luther King Jr. when he attacked the immoral war in Vietnam. All of us are still caught up in the attacks against Andrew Young which ultimately resulted in his dismissal. The media attacks against Walter Fauntroy have been unprecedented. Each of those men must have looked to sources of courage during their travail.

More recently, on a much smaller scale, I have been viciously attacked by the media because I spoke about three people who froze to death in Baltimore. I have been called a lair, and characterized in a very negative fashion.

The fact of the matter is that three people did freeze. The fact of the matter is that a coroners office may well list the cause of death as pneumonia, or heart failure without indicating that those conditions resulted from freezing.

My critics have charged that some of those who froze were outside, and those critics seem to dismiss those deaths as being an acceptable part of the scheme of things or as unpreventable accidents. How can these critics dismiss so blithely the fact that those persons were also human beings or, put another way, they also are children of God.

No one likes to castigated publicly. I must confess that I felt a great deal of pressure and indeed some frustration because it is so difficult to fight back against the media. I felt that way when I saw Larry Thorne on the morning of Friday, November 2nd. His courage uplifted me, and I can deal with my detractors because no matter how much verbiage they spew out, my stand in the Congress was the right stand.

For All We Know . More from the Middle East

By Elizabeth M. Oliver, City Editor

THE MIDDLE EAST trip we made under a grant from the Middle East Institute was over officially Friday Oct. 9 when we reported to Washington. The fantastic tour which went to all the Mid East countries (with exception of Iran and Saudi Arabia) gave a first-hand look at the Israeli-Arab situation and some of the historic sites in that wonderous part of the world.

WE'LL TELL YOU all in a series of articles due to start son with the feature on the Holy Land, especially interesting around Chirstimas.

MEANTIME, I'l give you a peep at what ransired during the nearly month-long sojourn into that portion of the globe where the Bible was born.

HIGHLIGHTS of the Old and New TESTAMENT are right before your eyes and archiologists have established accurately where, for example, Moses was found in the bullrushes onthe Nile in Cairo, Egypt and later onthe top of Mt. Nebo where he viewed the Promised Land.

WHAT A THRILL it was to actually see the tomb in which Christ was buried and the huge marble slab upon which his body was anointed and prepared for burial.

All the monuments of those Bible events have been extravagantly preserved and most are enclosed by churches. You may visit without charge and actually stand where the sacred places are.

MOST EXCITING was the Church of the Annuciation, where it was said Mary received the news from heaven that she was to become the mother of Jesus. In addition to all those utterly unbelievable sites, I walked on the road to Damascus where St. Paul was converted and visited the church where he was let down ina basket and allowed to escape. Persons who thought he was a fake were chasing him to arrest him. Paul was persecuted and put in chains.

WHEN I get to the articles onthose visits, I will have photos also. Some of them show me standing on thebanks of the Sea of Galilee, the shore of the River Jordan, the Dea dSea, the Nile River and walking the streets of Old Jerusalem, on the Street Called Straight.

I LOVED IT but could not help wondering how grand it is to be able to witness such holy places without their being roped off and admitted to view only through fenses. In the USA someone would be "charging money at the door" and tourists could not visit any time of day.

IF YOU EVER get to Damascus, Jerusalem, Cairo and all those scenes of the Bible, you may stay as long as you wish and look until your heart's content.

I LIKED DAMASCUS best of all but then everywhere was earth shaking, beyond my wildest dreams. First there were the Pyramids and the Sphynx considered the Wonders of the World.

I OBTAINED A BOOK which said men from another world built the Pyramids and it declares that no firm proof is available that the wonders were done by men on earth.

EGYPT is so enthralling until you can hardly leave. There the modern and the ancient are visable on every street and road. The villages are as old as time itself and people go their way daily as they have done since the dawn of civilization.

THE SPHYNX is said to have seen every sunrise since the beginning of creation.

AFRO CITY EDITOR Elizabeth M. Oliver and four of the seven journalists who traveled with her to the Middle East (L to R) Martin Berek, NEWSDAY; Paul McKalip, Tuscon Citizen; Robert White II, Mexico Ledger; C.K. McClatchy, Sacramento Bee. Not shown are Harold Gulliver, Atlanta Constitution and Sid Steen, Tulsa Daily World, all editors and publishers and Lee Dinsmore, former U.S. ambassador who served as group leader.

Oh yes, we saw the place where the Ark landed after Noah's Flood.

In Jerusalem, our hotel was on the Mount of Olives. Tel Aviv, on the warm and plush shores of the blue Mediterranean Sea, means Hill of Spring and when that area was called Babylon, was the scene of Ezekiel's vision, the Wheel in the Wheel way up in the middle of the air.

As an exiled prophet, Ezekiel saw the dry bones brought back to lide by the spirit of God and returned home to the Land of Israel.

TEL AVIV YAFO the oldest port city in the world is said to have been given to the tribe of Dan but it was a Philistine town until the reign of King David.

King Solomon used the Yarqon River to bring cedars of Lebanon to build the Temple in Jerusalem.

The twon is also mentioned in the Bible story of Jonah and the Whale. We are told that here Peter brought Tabitha back to life and while he stayed in the house of Simon the Tanner, he was ordered by the Lord to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles.

ACCURATE, OBJECTIVE AND SCHOLARLY information reveal that all the Bible stories are true and that the places like where Jesus fed the 5,000 and turned water into wine and performed other miracles are alive and real as thousands of years ago.

ONLY THE CHRISTIANS, His followers, are missing. They are few in number in that Holy Land and those who do not believe are in the majority by far. They do not seem to harm the Christian monuments however and some of the most beautiful churches I have ever see, all silver and gold.

PHENOMENON is how the people cling to their way of living from one generation to another, absolutely unchanged for thousands of years. For example, they refused to accept washing machines or present day appliances. The women still wash in the streams and men plow the land with water buffalo. They ride donkeys, walk the roads and shepherds tend their flocks inthe fields. Many women are dressed entirely in black from head to toe and the veil hides every inch of the face.

WOMEN also carry heavy loads onteir heads, perfectly balanced, and at the same time can carry two children, one in each arm. They step lively and walk wherever they want to go, sometimes 25 miles there and back.

OF COURSE there are richer persons who ride in Mercedes and live in villas with air conditioning. But I never saw a laundrymat in all my travels.

Someone could make a fortune but perhaps the lack of water or the ancient habits of the folks over there might keep them away from a laundrymat.

JESSE JACKSON'S photo is almost as popular as that of Mohammad Ali. All the market places you see Cassius Clay is picture. He is like a god to the young and old. When Jesse Jackson was in the Mid East, he walked the streets and people reached out just to touch his hand. I will list later the colleges and organizations which want him to return.

I HEARD from the gentleman who heads radio and TV in Jordan that Ali is due there mid-November and will build a mosque somewhere near the border of Saudi Arabia. They are preparing for him and some 300 newsmen in his group. He of course will be on the side of the Palestinians and the Arab states.

WE TALKED WITH THE PLO for about three hours. The meeting was not secret and in fact was quite open and frank, no trouble. We were to meet with Arafat several times but each time he was suddenly called away for some urgent arrangement.

I INTEND TO GO BACK one day to take my grand children to see the Pyramids, Sphynx, Damascus, Jerusalem, Jerico and Tel Aviv and every one of those sacred places. It's something no one should miss. I'll go over each and every thing in stories as soon as my notebooks arrive by mail. I have a bushel of notes. I didn't miss a thing.

—MORE LETTERS—

We must be reminded

Dear AFRO:

Try as the American people might, they will probably never be able to put the spectre of slavery past into a permanent grave. But, then, why should they be allowed to?

I mean, shouldn't a country founded upon such a noble principle as all men are created equal and lofty aspirations of government protected liberty be reminded of its ugliest contradiction, its greatest injustice? I must say yes.

America, and the melting pot theory of society was, and still is, envisioned as something special, something different, a land of opportunity.

According to this theory of the melting pot, different men of different races, nationalities, and religions would blend together harmoniously and learn to enjoy and respect each other's cultures, but without losing their own sense of cultural identity.

If theory had been transformed into reality, America could have been a social miracle. However, this "miracle" was thwarted by slavery in the ugly company of racial hatred and prejudice, which kept the mix from being blended.

The strong racial hatred in this country was, I believe, a child of America's slave industry.

Slavery is an undeniable evil. From evil comes evil. The racial hatred that sprouted from slavery is just as abominable. For some reason our society has been having problems grasping, or maybe it's holding onto, this truth.

Many young Americans today, both black and white, have placed this country's history of slavery out of their minds: alot of them scoff at the idea of slavery being as harsh as it has been historically depicted. At best, they view it as a matter of slight significance.

On many occasions when the wound of slavery past has been put on public display and angrily decided, I've heard people of both races proclaim. "Why don't they leave it be. That was over two hundred years ago." I guess these people feel that the issue is a dead one, that by forgetting we'll all be much better off.

I disagree with this notion, but my reasons for doing so are in no way negative or vengeful. Nor do I have any desire for racial confrontation.

American society was set up to be a great society, a self-perfecting society. Just look at the flexibility of our constitution. That should prove my claim.

Being a uniquely self-perfecting society, American society must be pushed, it must be urged on, if it is to move on towards that once envisioned societal excellence. The critical reminder of slavery past, and of its ugly after-effects, is a much needed push. Just look at the social impact of the Roots mini-series of A.B.C. or the showing of the Holocaust in order to gauge the impact of such reminders on social change, a very much needed social change.

These reminders act as much needed catalysts. To forsake these reminders would be to condone this country's social impurities, its lack of progress, until the day arrives when the mention of America's injustices during the period of slavery, or the shadow of that slavery i.e., racism, causes no violence, economic, political, or social domination changes to insure equality for all are no longer a necessity, then we still need those reminders. The push is still needed. Our drive for perfection must be sustained. Obviously, society has not been shoved hard enough.

MARY PAPPAS

Females in danger

Dear AFRO:

Since October 1979, female correctional officers have been working in the general population area of the prison. Prior to October 1979, female correctional officers were working in job functions that indirectly dealt with the total involvement of the inmate.

The prison administration has placed the female directly at the whims of some men doing time for violent crimes, to be specific sexual assaults. She is exposed to men who have been confined in a negative and controlled environment for periods of years at a time.

For their own safety, women should not be allowed to work directly with the inmate. It's true that I have always expressed my concern for the welfare of the inmate through the Maryland House of Correction Newsletter, but to allow females to work directly in the living quarters of a male prison complex is foolish.

First of all, who is going to accept the responsibility if one of the many mentally disturbed, or weak-minded individuals within this institution, choose to violently grab one of these women in a cell and sexually molest her. I know I cannot be held directly responsible for another inmate's adverse actions, but in a sense, indirectly every inmate will suffer if such a tragedy should occur.

If the female must assume a tuboritative role in a man's prison, in her quest for manifestation, why not in an area less vulnerable to her safety.

LARRY J. WILSON, 146-294
Maryland House of Correction

Battle hits court

Dear AFRO:

The election on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1979, should prove to the black community that there is power at the polls. The ministers of the black community are to be commended for their enlightenment on the subject of rent control (Question K). At 11 o'clock on Sunday morning you have a greater assembly of Black people in Church than in any social organization in the world.

If our ministers had joined forces sooner with special emphasis on housing, inflation, depression, rehabilitation, and recreation just as they so eloquently speak the truth about salvation, the black community might be blessed with more blacks in City Hall and Annapolis. The ministers were seen religiously giving of their time and energies to enable the citizens to understand the importance of their constitutional right.

The right to vote: hats off to the ministers of Baltimore City, but the battle is not over, we have only just begun.

MOZELLA RITTER
Pennsylvania A.M.E. Zion

AFRO welcomes letters

The AFRO welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be brief and must bear the writer's name and address. All letters will be given consideration for publication.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT AGING

Wills—More Questions and Answers

by Dr. Matthew Tayback

In a recent column, we discussed some commonly asked questions about the subject of wills and estate planning. The large number of questions directed to us indicates a wide interest in the subject. Here then are more questions and answers:

1. What happens if you are married or divorced after writing your will?

If a person marries and such a marriage is followed by the birth, adoption, or legitimation of a child by him, and the child or the child's descendant survives the testator (person making the will) any will executed prior to such marriage is automatically revoked.

If a person obtains an absolute divorce or his marriage is annulled, all provisions of a will executed prior to the divorce or annulment which relate to the spouse will be automatically revoked unless otherwise provided in the will or divorce decree.

2. If you write a will in another state, will it be valid in Maryland?

It will be valid in Maryland as long as it is:

a. In writing;

b. Signed by the testator; and

c. Attested and signed by at least two credible witnesses OR meets the legal requirements of the state where the testator was living or the state where the will was executed.

3. Are there any special provisions for administering a small estate?

If the total value of the property owned by the decedent subject to administration is $7,500 or less it may be administered as a small estate. There is no inheritance tax due or payable on a distribution from small estate and the costs and fees of the Register of Wills are significantly less for a small estate. Instead of the normal six-month period during which creditors can make claims against the estate, the time period is reduced to 30 days. Whereas, normally the entire process of probating a will and distributing an estate takes approximately 8-10 months, a small estate takes approximately 2-4 months. Often, a small estate can be administered without the services of an attorney.

4. What kinds of taxes must be paid when you die?

Federal Estate Tax — An estate tax is a tax imposed by the Federal government on all property owned by the decedent at his death, including jointly held property, life insurance and certain annuities. However, no Federal estate tax will be imposed unless the value of the taxable estate exceeds $147,000. This figure increases yearly until 1981 when no estate tax will be imposed unless the taxable estate exceeds $175,000. The amount of property which may pass without taxation will increase if you are survived by a spouse.

Maryland Inheritance Tax — The State of Maryland imposes an inheritance tax of 1% on the value of property passing to spouses, children, grandchildren and parents. A tax of 10 per cent is imposed on the value of property passing to any other person.

Maryland Estate Tax — The Maryland Estate tax is reduced by any inheritance tax paid and is only due for estates which must file a Federal estate tax.

Maryland Tax on Executor's Commissions — The State imposes a tax on commission paid to the personal representative (the person appointed by the court to distribute an estate to heirs) even if he declines the commissions. The tax is equal to one per cent of the first $20,000 of the estate plus 1/5 of one per cent on the balance.

Federal Income Tax — Your estate must pay taxes on any income earned during the period of administration.

5. How much will it cost to administer your estate?

Maryland law restricts the amount of commissions to be paid to a personal representative for his duties. The amount is determined by a percentage of the value of the property subject to administration (not including real property). If the value is $20,000 or less, the commission may not exceed $2,000 plus 4 per cent of the excess over $20,000. In addition, the personal representative is allowed a commission on the sale of real property which shall not exceed 10 per cent. All commissions paid to the personal representative are subject to court approval.